Post offices in rented house in Tamil Nadu

518. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many main post offices are housed in rented premises in Tamil Nadu State;

(b) the steps taken to build own premises for such post offices;

(c) whether there are also vacant Government land lying unutilised for several years in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose these lands to build post offices in their own land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 32 Head Post Offices are housed in rented premises in Tamil Nadu State.

(b) Priority for acquiring land and construction of buildings for these Post Offices are being taken up in a phased manner depending on the availability of funds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The construction of Post Offices is being taken up in a phased manner in the vacant plots of land depending on the availability of funds.

Transfer of Hindustan Cables Limited to Ministry of Communications

519. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion of Minister of Industry to transfer the administrative control of Hindustan Cables Ltd. to Ministry of Communications is being considered; and

(b) if so, by when the formalities for transfer will be completed and what is the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) After due consideration, DOT has informed the Department of Heavy Industry that the company (HCL) is suffering from certain basic problems like excessive workforce, management problems, liquidity crunch etc. and certain radical measures like financial restructuring, reduction of staff strength to optimal level, maintenance of fiscal discipline as well as diversification into other areas of production are required. The mere transfer of this unit to the Department of Telecom is not going to solve these basic problems. The remedy does not lie in the transfer of the undertaking from one ministry to another.

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

Differences between Telephone Regulatory Authority and DOT

520. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exist differences between the Telephone Regulatory Authority and the Department of Telecommunication on various outstanding issues like the licence fee structure for basic and cellular telephone operators, grant of licences for internet service, etc.;

(b) if so, the main issues on which differences exist; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to resolve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) There are no differences between the Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) and the Department of Telecommunications on the issue of licence fee structure for basic and cellular telephone operators and grant of licences for Internet services.

However, the Department of Telecommunications had filed appeal in Delhi High Court against certain decisions of the TRAI. The Delhi High Court had given the verdict in favour of the Department of Telecom.

Investment in Telecommunication Sector

521. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the announcement of telecom policy by previous Congress Government, high level delegations from various countries met the then Communication Minister showing keen interest in the telecommunication sector in the country;

(b) whether the successive Governments have changed/modified the telecom policy; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for dampening the response of investors in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has not been any change/modification in the National Telecom Policy of 1994.

However, Govt. has recently constituted a Group on Telecommunications to resolve various issues concerning Basic & Cellular Services providers.

भोपाल और विदिशा के बीच सीधी डायल प्रणाली

522. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विदिशा-भोपाल और भोपाल-विदिशा के बीच सीधी डायल प्रणाली शुरू न करने के क्या कारण है;

(ख) यह प्रणाली कब तक शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस प्रणाली को शुरू किए जाने में विलंब का क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) से (ग) 180 सेकेण्ड पल्स पर सीधी डायलिंग प्रणाली तभी प्रदान की जाती है जब:—

(i) दो कम दूरी प्रभारण केन्द्रों के बीच अरीय दूरी 20 कि०मी० (विशेष मामले में 30 कि०मी०) तक हो।

(ii) जब, दो कम दूरी प्रभारण क्षेत्रों की सीमाएं आपस में सटी हुई हों।

चूंकि, विदिशा और भोपाल एसडीसीसी के बीच की अरीय दूरी 20 कि०मी० से अधिक है, और दोनों एसडीसीए एक दूसरे के समीप भी नहीं है, इसलिए 180 सैकेण्ड पल्स दर पर सीधी डायलिंग की व्यवस्था करना व्यवहार्य नहीं है। अतः विदिशा और भोपाल के बीच सीधी डायलिंग एसटीडी पर उपलब्ध है।

Investment in Communication Sector in North-East Region

523. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational companies are not willing to invest in communication sector in the North-East Region (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have shown interest in their investment proposals in NER; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The multinational companies have shown willingness to invest in the telecom projects in the NER. The details are given at **Annexure.**

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, after the opening up of Telecom sector, Department of Telecom has issued license to a number of companies for operating Value Added Telecom Services viz. Cellular Mobile Telephone and Radio Paging Services Multinational companies like Nynex, Mauritius, PTT Telecom Netherlands, Easy Call Communication Philippines Telesystems, Mauritius etc, are the joint